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Contact: County
Communications 428-2380

BROOKS INTRODUCES BUDGET HOTLINE, INVITES CITIZENS COMMENTARY

CALL (585-697-7333)

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks announced the creation of a public phone line (585-697-7333) designed to record citizen's constructive ideas for consideration by her Budget Advisory Team. The phone hotline for citizen 'input' is an extension of the County Executive's efforts to find new and 'out-of-the-box' approaches to fiscal management.

"I am determined to pursue innovative ways to do more with less, to identify budgetary efficiencies and to break new ground in our search for solutions that will help me maintain my commitment to keep Monroe County's budget under control," said Brooks. "The strategies we develop will also help me produce a budget in 2005, and beyond, that is balanced without raising property taxes."

Brooks recently appointed a Budget Advisory Team to conduct a top-to-bottom review the 2004 Monroe County budget. They were charged with identifying cost cutting measures and other opportunities to streamline and consolidate government. They are also reviewing previous recommendations of the CASE Commission, the Blue Ribbon Commission, the Altrea Report and the Council of Governments Report prepared by the Center for Governmental Research.

"The new phone line for citizens will expand our effort to think 'out-of-the-box'," said Brooks. "Citizens now have a direct opportunity to provide me with recommendations - both immediate and long-term - that will allow us to confront our fiscal challenges, head-on." said Brooks.

The phone line and Intertell Voice Processing System is being provided and operated through ICS Telcom. ICS President I.C. Shah is a member of the County Executive's Budget Advisory Team.